

Sawyer's 'Land Birds of Northern New York.'¹— This neat little booklet is another attempt to make easy the task of identifying birds on the part of the beginner. Every author has his own ideas as to how this may best be accomplished, and all meet with a measure of success, although probably none fulfill their expectations. Mr. Sawyer's ability as an artist has enabled him to supplement his brief descriptions by figures of a large number of the species, which aid materially in their identification, although the text paper used by no means does justice to the half-tones. The species are arranged in a number of artificial groups, which unfortunately are not mutually exclusive: *i. e.* 'Brightly Colored Birds'; 'Birds Distinctly Marked'; 'Birds of Robin Size or Larger (not in foregoing groups).' While the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is placed in the first, and the Bobolink in the second, we should regard one as distinctly marked as the other, and we surely should hardly expect to find the Wood Thrush in the 'Distinctly Marked' group, when the Thrasher falls in the 'Robin Size or Larger' section. The main fault in these artificial schemes is that females and immature birds, where they differ from the adult males, are left entirely out of consideration in the grouping. Shortcomings of this sort are however, common to all books of this kind, and are difficult to overcome in a 'pocket guide.' Mr. Sawyer's little book contains much information in a very compact form and will doubtless aid many beginners to name the birds about them.— W. S.

Summer Birds of the Douglas Lake Region, Mich.²— Mr. N. A. Wood has compiled an annotated list of 128 species of birds observed in the Douglas Lake region of Michigan which has been published by the University of Michigan. It is based upon his own observations in 1915, those of Prof. Smith and Dr. Gates in 1911, and a published list by J. S. Compton. An introduction discusses the physical features of the locality and the ecological distribution of the birds. We note *Helodromas solitarius cinnamomeus* and *Colaptes auratus auratus* listed without comment, but as Michigan is far out of their range we presume that *H. s. solitarius* and *C. a. luteus* are intended, as suggested by the English names. *Dryobates pubescens* should also probably be *D. p. medianus*, while the occurrence of two races of Ruffed Grouse together, apparently at the same season, seems open to question.— W. S.

¹ Land Birds of Northern New York. A Pocket Guide to Common Land Birds of the St. Lawrence Valley and the Lowlands in General of Northern New York. By Edmund J. Sawyer. Illustrated by the Author. Published under the Auspices of the Watertown Bird Club. May, 1916. 12mo., pp. 1-90. 1 colored plate and numerous half-tone text figures. A. C. Rogers, 325 Jay St., Watertown, N. Y., paper, 35 cts., cloth 50 cts., postpaid.

² The Summer Birds of the Douglas Lake Region, Cheboygan County, Michigan. By Norman A. Wood, Frank Smith and Frank C. Gates. Occas. Papers Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., No. 27. May 15, 1916.